

Howe and Allen in their 'Birds of Massachusetts' say: Blackburnian Warbler: "Martha's Vineyard: 'Transient. Rare.'" Bay-breasted: "Martha's Vineyard: 'Transient.'"

When at my summer place at Oak Bluffs, M. V., which is located in an oak grove, I am usually alert for birds, it being a favorable place for observation. About 10 A. M., May 21, 1905, a most delightful morning, I heard a warbler's song with which I was unfamiliar. Upon investigating I discovered a pair of Blackburnian Warblers (*Dendroica fusca*) in the lower branches of an oak, 15 feet from cottage. They were beautiful, graceful birds; flitting from branch to branch, catching insects, singing now and then; spreading their tails, showing their white webs and their black and white and orange parts showing to perfection. I had a near view of the handsome male and his slightly plainer mate, both being in their faultless nuptial dress. I had waited years for this sight and enjoyed it thoroughly.

September 12, 1914, while exploring the pine barrens near East Chop, Martha's Vineyard, where the Grasshopper Sparrow and the Heath Hen sometimes occur, I encountered a flock of probably 125 migrating sparrows and warblers. I examined several of the latter which proved to be Blackpolls, and then a warbler attracted my attention which had an unusually deep yellow breast. I at first thought it one of the comparatively highly colored, fall Pine Warblers. I quickly lost sight of this bird and searched for another, which I soon found, and by its chestnut flanks and white tail patches I recognized the Bay-breasted Warbler (*Dendroica castanea*). There were surely two in the mixed flock and doubtless more.—CHARLES L. PHILLIPS, *Taunton, Mass.*

The Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*) as an Abundant Autumnal Migrant and as a Destructive Grape Juice Consumer at Berwyn, Pa.—For several years, previous to the crushing sleet of the past winter, a pie cherry tree crowned with the foliage of a fugitive Clinton grapevine overhung my shop platform; and a thirty foot pine bending under the weight of several Niagara grapevine runners, stood close to my bedroom window. These vines remained unpruned principally because the fruit served as a capital lure for many migrating birds in just the places most convenient for observation.

From the cherry tree I secured an adult female Cape May Warbler on September 25, 1909, a notable capture at that time since it was my first fall record.

From the same tree, on September 12, 1913, I took a specimen each of the Cape May and Tennessee Warblers, and on the 14th and 15th observed twenty and thirty adult and immature female Cape Mays on the pine tree. These birds were almost constantly on the move, darting after one another, only now and then pausing an instant to gather some minute insect from leaf or fruit, especially about the grape bunches; and six shots failed to drive the survivors from the tree. By the 19th, the number diminished to

about ten individuals, all extremely tame, and one was closely approached as it perched upon a bunch of Clinton grapes eating the pulp or juice, I was unable to tell which. Again on the 20th, I saw an individual alight on a bunch of Niagara grapes, deliberately puncture the skin and eat greedily; this and several other specimens were taken with dripping bills.

No adult males had been noted from the first, the proportion of young increased as the days passed, and the individuals grew less active, more deliberate, reminding one of the Vireos; though it appears characteristic of this species to inhabit for a time one or two isolated trees in a yard.

None were noticed on the 23d, but on the following day they were present in considerable numbers allowing an approach within four feet, and on the 27th again became common, though all appeared immature. By October 2, the six or more present were all immature females. On this date I examined closely the fruit remaining on the two trees, and found about 50% showing triangular or ragged punctures, which the bees, especially the yellow jackets, swarmed about and sucked freely. On the 4th, I secured apparently adult male showing some traces of orange cheek patches; the only one observed during the flight; and up to their final departure, on the 7th, there was a fair proportion of yellow-breasted adult females.

Specimens secured early in this remarkable flight carried no fat, in fact were rather lean, but after some days of feeding became fat, inactive and even sluggish; an adult female shot in the act of eating from a grape, and brought to me for identification by a neighbor, was positively enveloped in fat, and the skin became so saturated with oil I had the greatest difficulty in saving it. I do not recall having handled a more oily specimen of this size.

The Flicker (*Colaptes auratus luteus*), Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata cristata*), Purple Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula quiscula*), English Sparrow (*Passer domesticus domesticus*), White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*), Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga erythromelas*), Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*), Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireosylva olivacea*), Black and White Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*), Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens caerulescens*), Magnolia Warbler (*D. magnolia*), Black-poll Warbler (*D. striata*), Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*), Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*), Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*), Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*), Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla guttata pallasii*) and Robin (*Planesticus migratorius migratorius*), were present and eating grapes, whole or piecemeal, but they were generally easily frightened away and the damage they occasioned confined to the fruit on the trees. The Cape May Warbler, however, overflowed to wherever grapes were found, and did considerable damage to all unbagged bunches in the vicinity and also at Paoli, two miles west.

I sent ten stomachs to Mr. W. L. McAtee of the Biological Survey and avail myself of his kind permission to publish his reply. "Hymenoptera constituted on an average 57.5 per cent of the contents of the stomachs. A third perhaps of this material was parasitic Hymenoptera and their

destruction counts against the bird. The others were ants and small bees and are of neutral importance except perhaps the ants which may be injurious. Diptera made up 16.7 per cent of the stomach contents and again a large proportion of them were parasitic species. Lepidoptera (small moths) constitute 16.7 per cent, beetles 7.8 per cent and the remainder was made up of Hemiptera, spiders and miscellaneous insects. Except for the spiders the food was entirely composed of insects, and a large proportion of useful species were taken and no decidedly injurious ones. I should say that these Cape May Warblers did very little to pay for the destruction of grapes."

In 1914, about half a dozen Cape May Warblers arrived on September 6. I watched an immature female at a distance of five feet, the bird not minding me in the least; it ran out on a twig and reaching across to a bunch of Clinton grapes, punctured one and repeatedly ate from it, none as far as I have noticed have gone through the motions of drinking with raised beak; when it was satisfied, I examined the grape and found it intact as far as the pulp was concerned, but the juice was partly extracted.

On the following day the number of individuals had doubled; further increased on the 11th, becoming common on the 12th, 13th and 14th, and by the last date the red and purple grape crop was ruined; some grapes had as many as three or four wedge-shaped punctures; while the white grapes had not been touched. However, on the 17th I found the Niagara grapes utterly destroyed. I counted forty-five grapes on a single bunch with from one to three punctures. It would seem that a fresh puncture occurred on every visit and the havoc made during the last three days. The species was very abundant until the 21st, and about ten or a dozen constantly present until Oct. 18; the last one was seen on the 20th.

Single Tennessee Warblers (*Vermivora peregrina*), were taken on October 3 and 8; and during the season, almost all the species enumerated for 1913, with the addition of the Parula Warbler (*Compsolhlypis americana usneæ*) and Bay-breasted Warbler (*Dendroica eastanea*); but all in greatly reduced numbers owing to the abundance of wild fruit on which they fed undisturbed.

I believe that grape juice was the principal food of the Cape May Warbler during its lengthy visit in this neighborhood. It was present in countless numbers at Berwyn and vicinity as far as a mile south of the village, apparently by far the most abundant species for a period; the complaints of the "little striped yellow bird" were many, and so far as I am able to learn, all unbagged grapes were ruined; the loss must have been many tons worth several hundred dollars.—FRANK L. BURNS, *Berwyn, Penna.*

Cape May Warbler Eating Grapes.—On September 12, 1914, at West Grove, Chester Co., Pa., where I spent the summer and fall, I observed three Cape May Warblers (*Dendroica tigrina*) feeding upon ripe grapes. I did not note how long this species remained with us, but I recall distinctly that for several days a few of them might be seen at almost any

time in the tree over which the grapevine grew.— ISAAC G. ROBERTS, *West Chester, Pa.*

Addendum.— Referring to specimens of the Cape May Warbler (*Dendroica tigrina*), mentioned in lines 27 and 28, there should have been, on page 105 of this volume of 'The Auk,' a footnote as follows: ² Proc. Portland Society Natural History, April, 1882.— N. C. B.

The Rock Wren at National, Iowa.— A single individual of this species (*Salpinctes obsoletus obsoletus*) was observed on the morning of September 27, 1914, and was still here the next day. It was found in a wet ravine about the roots and thick sprouts of willow trees that grow about thirty feet from my bird blind. It had a favorite spot where in full view it would sit many minutes preening itself. While it was under observation a House Wren and English Sparrows were present with which it could be compared. Its head was not so slim as that of the House Wren, but seemed fuller or rounder, suggesting more the head of the Warbling Vireo, which was emphasized by its ashy color, while the very light breast rendered it conspicuous against the dark bark of the willows. It cocked its tail and scolded in true wren fashion.

The bird could not be taken. It was watched on both days as long as I could spare the time, and the description of it, here given, was written down while the bird was present. Rump and tail a dull rufous, the color being brighter on the rump; head and nape ashy, with a brownish wash, there being a gradual blending of this ashy with rufous along the back until the brighter rufous of rump is reached; a tinge of rufous on the tertials, the rest of the wings dark gray with darker bars; tail, rump, and back barred; no bars nor stripes could be detected on nape, head or under parts except tail; no light or white stripe over the eye; throat and breast a grayish white, somewhat lighter than corresponding parts of the *Passer domesticus*. The most strikingly marked portion was the under part of the tail, buffy white in color with conspicuous lateral bars of dark brown or black. A subterminal band of black on the tail is mentioned, also figured, in books of Mrs. Bailey, and of Baird, Brewer and Ridgway, also in 'The Birds of Washington.' I failed to see this though it might have been possible had I been on the lookout for it, as I was for the stripe over the eye. In the hand, traces of such a streak probably could have been found. The bird was studied from thirty to thirty-five feet away and I used both 8-power and 5½-power Bausch and Lomb binoculars, the latter being better for near distances.

Our place is six miles from the Mississippi River. This brings the occurrence of the species very near to the eastern limit of Iowa; and it makes the 148th species identified on our place with four or five more just beyond our borders.— ALTHEA R. SHERMAN, *National, Iowa.*

Corthylio — A Valid Genus for the Ruby-crowned Kinglet.— The genus *Regulus* as currently recognized comprises some eighteen forms